on availability of adequate resources with the State Governments and the priority accorded to the irrigation projects by them.

(c) and (d) Lag of a few years between the introduction of irrigation and its full utilisation is unavoidable mainly due to the following reasons: (1) farmers take time to construct the field channels and prepare the land for irrigated farming, (2) switch over from rainfed agriculture to irrigated agriculture involves a major change in agricultural techniques which farmers take time to master, (3) adopting appropriate cropping pattern as per project design is uncertain and (4) poor water management practices at farm level. No official estimate has been made in respect of likely gap between creation and utilisation of irrigation potential by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan as figures in respect of creation/utilisation of potential during the first two years of the Ninth Plan period have not been finalised by the Planning Commission.

Financial Assistance to Sardar Sarovar Dam

2141. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sardar Sarovar Project is proceeding according to schedule;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Gujarat Chief Minister has approached the Central Government to provide urgently a sum of Rs. 2200 crores for its early implementation; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Sardar Sarovar Project is not proceeding according to the original schedule. The progress on the project is constrained due to Civil Writ Petition filed by the Narmada Bachao Andolan in Supreme Court in 1994. Supreme Court in its interim orders on 5.5.1995, directed to maintain the effective height of the dam at RL

81.5 metres and on 18.2.99 permitted to raise the height of the Dam upto RL 85 metres, excluding humps required for the safety of the Dam.

The issue of further raising of the dam is subjudice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Out of the total budget provision of Rs. 1600 crores during 1999-2000 under AIBP, a ceiling of Rs. 275 crores has been fixed for Gujarat in its Annual Plan against which Rs. 26.7 crores have been approved for Sardar Sarovar Project and Rs. 8 crores for other seven project in Gujarat. The first instalment of 50% was released in August, 99 and proposal for release of Second instalment has been submitted recently to Ministry of Finance.

Recommendations of the National Commission on Water Resources

2142. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Water Resources has submitted its recommendations to Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of those recommendations;

(c) whether Government have examined them;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY); (a) and (b) A statement is attached (See below)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

Recommendations of the National Commission on Water Resources. The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources